



# STATE OF IOWA

CHESTER J. CULVER, GOVERNOR  
PATTY JUDGE, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
CHARLES J. KROGMEIER, DIRECTOR

## INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO. 977

**DATE:** January 5, 2011

**TO:** Iowa Medicaid Hospitals, Physicians, Dentists, Podiatrists, Optometrists, Opticians, Pharmacies, Home Health Agencies, Independent Lab, Ambulance, Medical Supply Dealers, Clinics, Rural Health Clinics, Chiropractors, Audiologists, Skilled Nursing Facilities, Rehab Agencies, Intermediate Care Facilities, Community Mental Health Centers, Mental Hospitals, Community Based ICF/MR, Psychologists, Hearing Aid Dealers, Orthopedic Shoe Dealers, Ambulatory Surgical Center, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists, Hospice, Clinical Social Workers, Federal Qualified Health Centers, Nursing Facility-Mental ILL and Advance Registered Nurse Practitioner Providers

**ISSUED BY:** Iowa Department of Human Services, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME)

**RE:** Changes in **Medicare** Coverage

Medicare is removing barriers to preventative services consistent with the changes in Section 4104 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA). Starting on January 1, 2011, provisions of the ACA waive the coinsurance/copayment and deductible for the initial preventive physical examination (IPPE), the annual wellness visit, and those Medicare covered preventive services recommended by the United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) with a grade of A or B for any indication or population and that are appropriate for the individual. The ACA also waives the deductible for planned colorectal cancer screening tests that become diagnostic. CMS describes the benefit in detail here:

<http://www.cms.gov/transmittals/downloads/R739OTN.pdf>

Because of this new benefit, providers are advised to ensure they are filing claims properly for dual eligible members. As always, any services covered by Medicare should be billed to Medicare first, including any of the new services mentioned above. Medicaid remains payer of last resort. Claims where the new Medicare policy waives the coinsurance/copayment and deductible should not be billed to the IME. The IME is adjusting our file settings to reflect the new Medicare coverage. Any questions regarding Medicare coverage details should be directed to the appropriate Medicare carrier.

If you have any questions, please contact the IME Provider Services Unit at 1-800-338-7909 or locally (in Des Moines) at 256-4609, or e-mail at [imeproviderservices@dhs.state.ia.us](mailto:imeproviderservices@dhs.state.ia.us).